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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No: 4178/OL166-US0

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Hidetoŝhi FUKUOKA, et al.

Serial No. 09/730,706

Art Unit: 1744

Confirmation No.: 7997

Filed: December 6, 2000

Examiner: Theresa T. SNIDER

For: **ELECTRIC VACUUM CLEANER**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to continuing examination, Applicants wish to amend the above-identified application as follows: